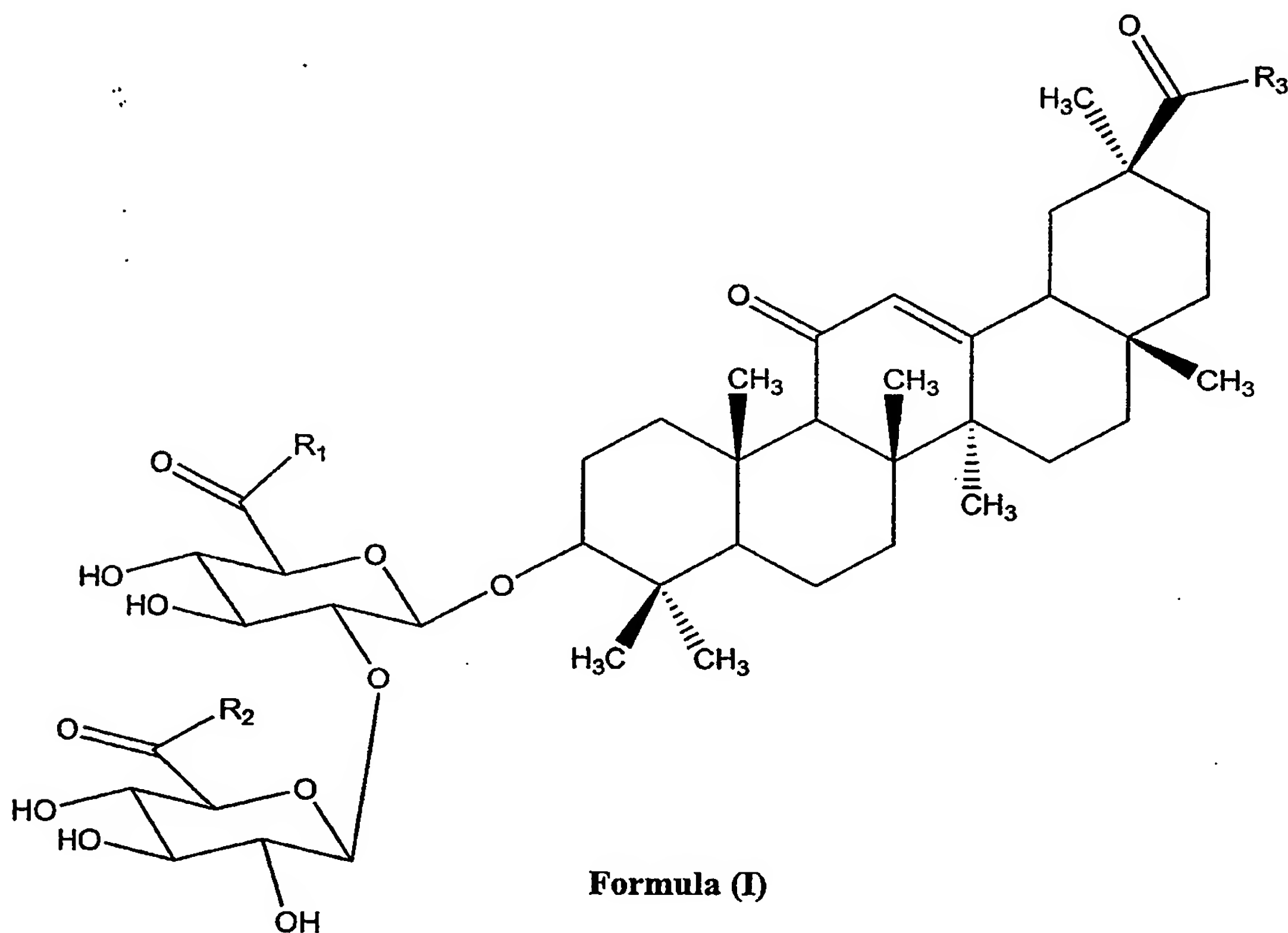


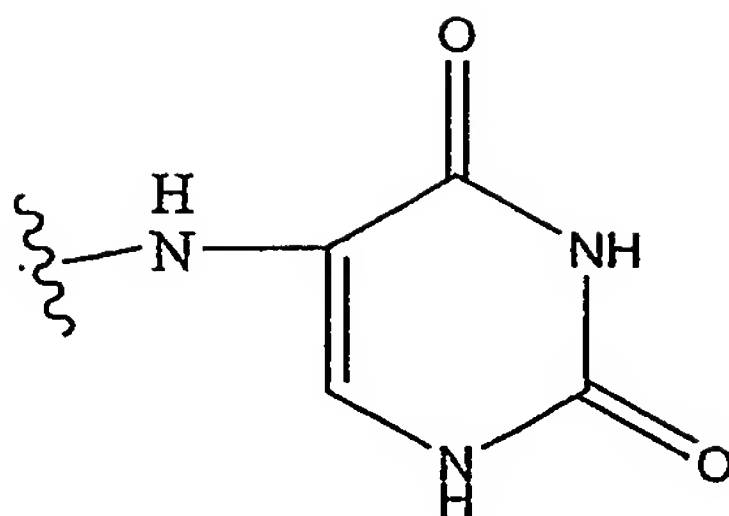
WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method of treating a SARS-associated coronavirus infection or ameliorating one or more symptoms thereof, said method comprising administering to a human infected with SARS-associated coronavirus a therapeutically effective amount of Glycyrrhizin or a derivative thereof.
2. The method of claim 1, wherein the derivative of Glycyrrhizin is a compound of Formula (I):



wherein R_1 , R_2 , and R_3 are independently: -OH; 5-, 6-, or 7- membered heterocycle; -Glycine-Leucine; -N(H) R_4 , wherein R_4 is -5-, 6-, or 7- membered heterocycle.

3. The method of claim 2, wherein R_1 , R_2 , and R_3 each is:

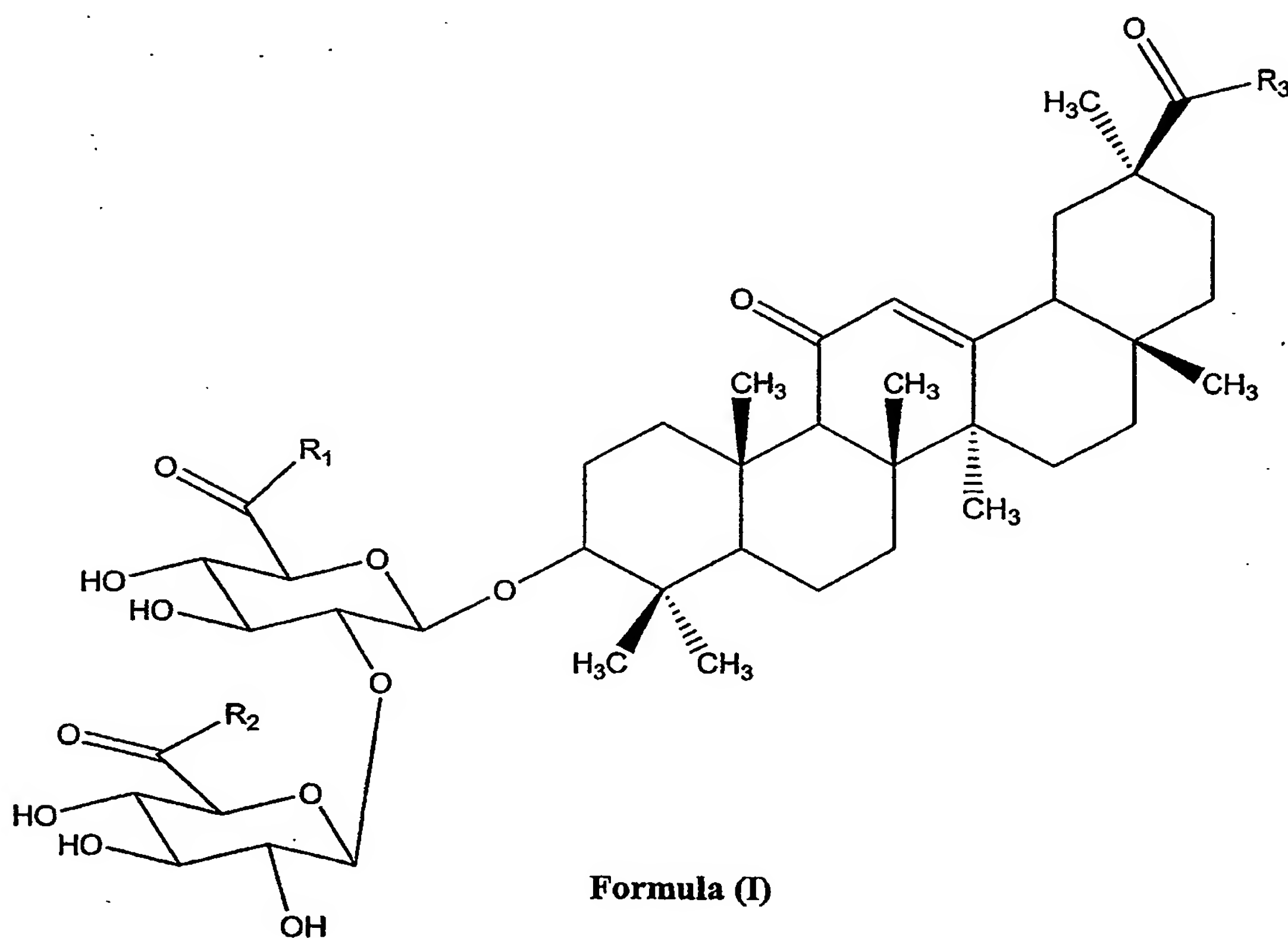


4. A method of inhibiting or reducing the multiplication of a SARS-associated coronavirus, said method comprising contacting a cell with an effective amount of Glycyrrhizin or a derivative thereof.
5. A method of inhibiting or reducing the production of SARS-associated coronavirus particles, said method comprising contacting a cell with an effective amount of Glycyrrhizin or a derivative thereof.
6. The method of claim 1, 2, 3, 4, or 5, wherein Glycyrrhizin or the derivative thereof is purified.
7. The method of claim 1, 4, or 5, wherein the Glycyrrhizin derivative is 18 β -Glycyrrhizinic acid.
8. The method of claim 1, wherein the human infected with a SARS-associated coronavirus is an elderly human, a human infant or an immunocompromised human.
9. The method of claim 1 further comprising administering a therapeutically effective amount of an antiviral agent other than Glycyrrhizin or a derivative thereof.
10. The method of claim 9, wherein the antiviral agent other than Glycyrrhizin is Ribavirin.
11. A method for preventing a SARS-associated coronavirus infection, said method comprising administering to a human in need thereof a prophylactically effective amount of Glycyrrhizin or a derivative thereof.
12. The method of claim 11, wherein Glycyrrhizin or a derivative thereof is purified.

13. The method of claim 11, wherein the subject has been exposed to a SARS-associated coronavirus infection.

14. The method of claim 11, wherein the Glycyrrhizin derivative is 18 β - Glycyrrhizinic acid.

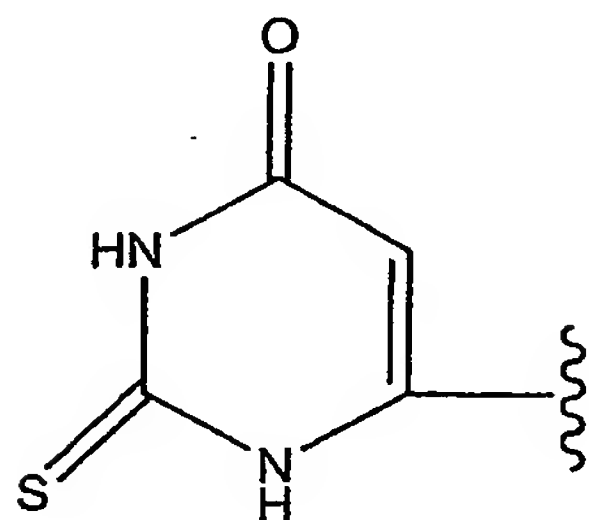
15. A compound of Formula I:



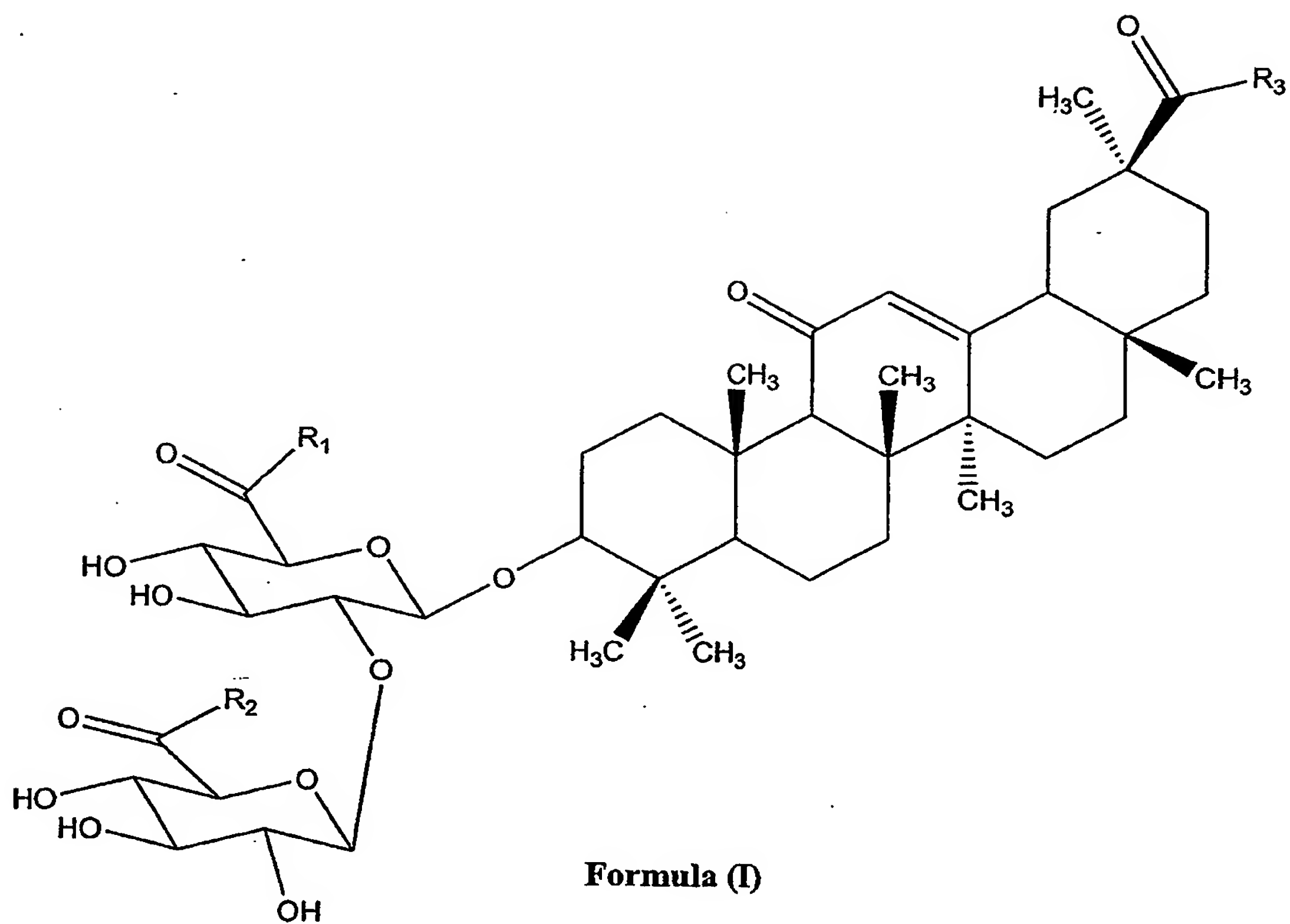
Formula (I)

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, wherein R₁, R₂, and R₃ are -N(H)R₄, wherein R₄ is -5-, 6-, or 7- membered heterocycle (substituted or unsubstituted), with the

proviso that R₄ is not thiazole, uracil or

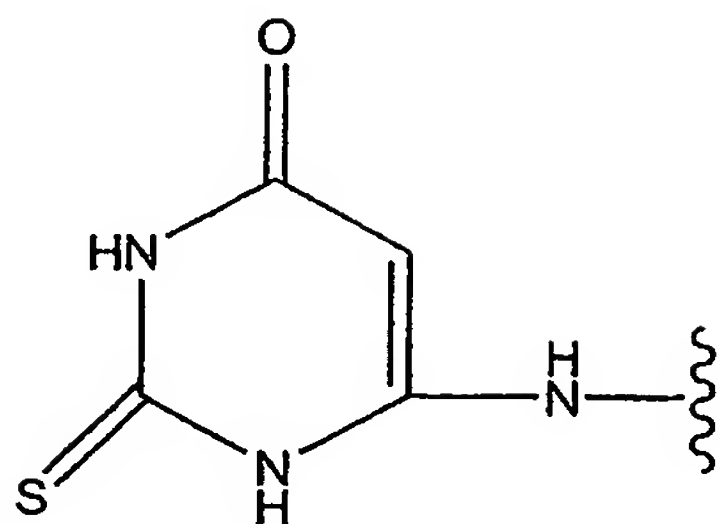


16. A compound of Formula I:



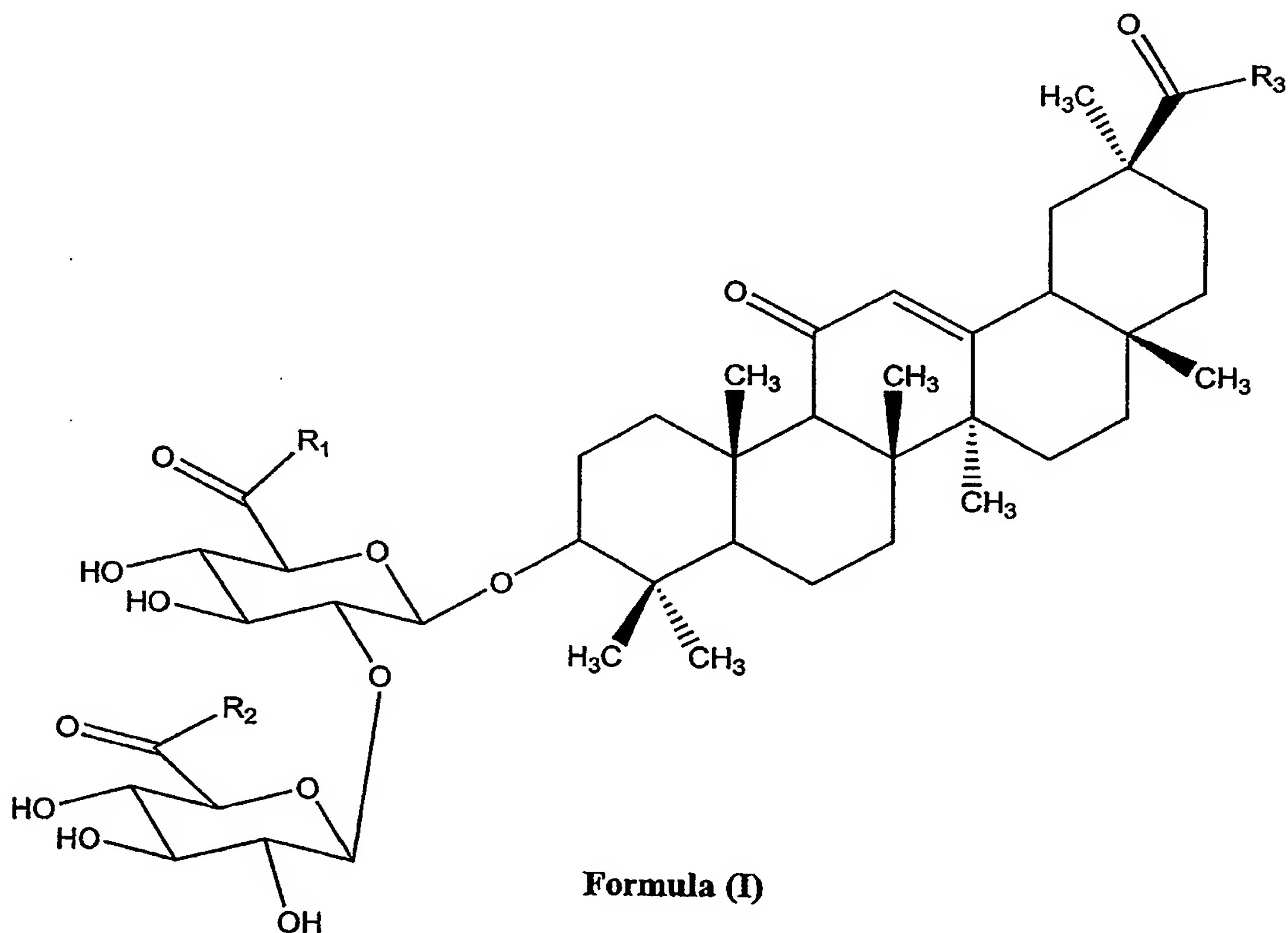
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or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, wherein one of R₁ and R₂ is:



and R_3 and the other of R_1 and R_2 are independently -OH; -OCH₃; -NH-NH₂; -NHCH(COOH)CH₂SCH₂C₆H₅; 5-, 6-, or 7- membered heterocycle (substituted or unsubstituted); an amino acid; a peptide; -N(H) R_4 , wherein R_4 is -5-, 6-, or 7- membered heterocycle (substituted or unsubstituted).

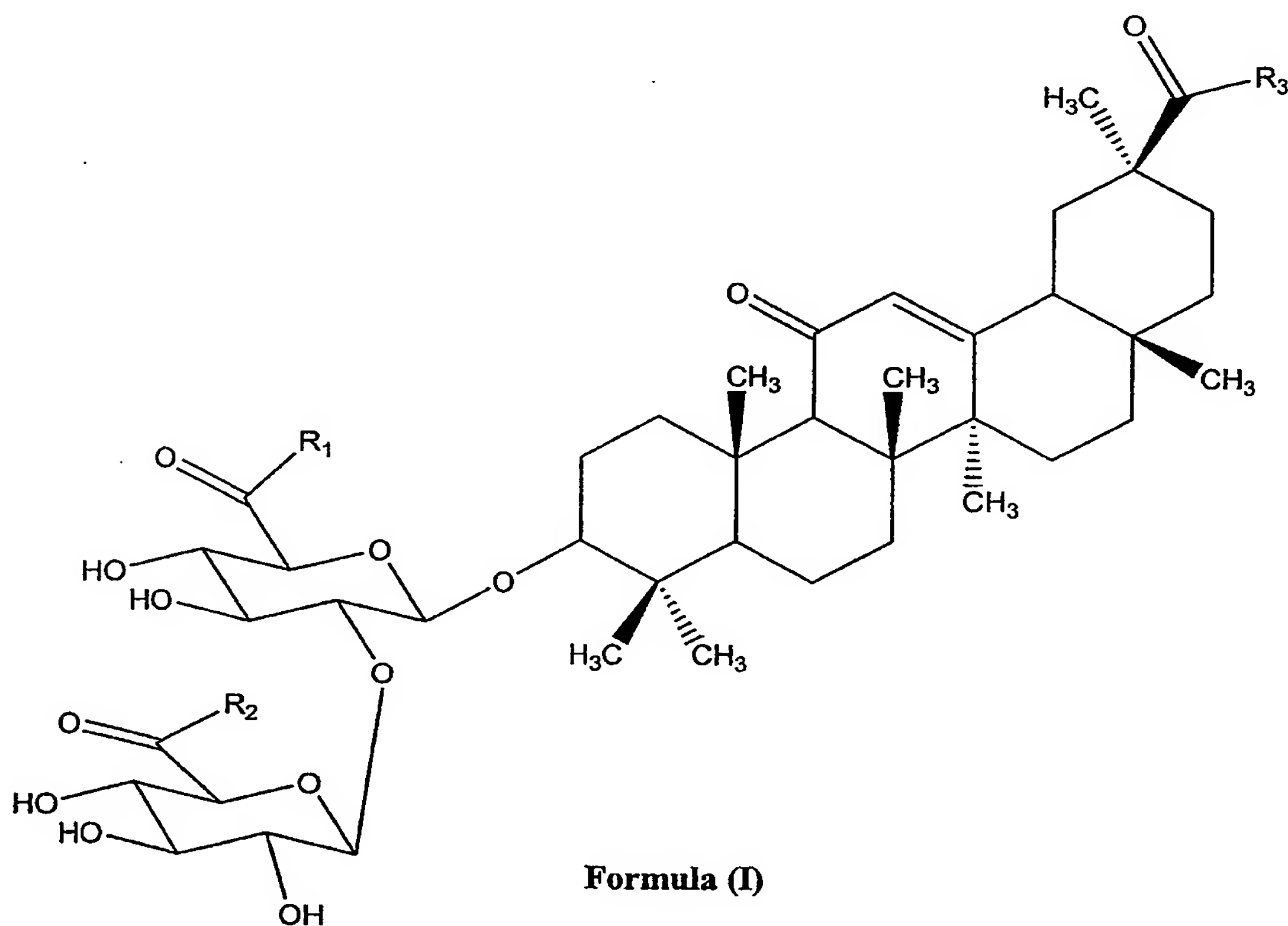
17. A compound of Formula I:



or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, wherein one of R_1 , R_2 , and R_3 is an amino acid or a peptide and the other two of R_1 , R_2 , and R_3 are independently -OH; -OCH₃; -NH-NH₂; -NHCH(COOH)CH₂SCH₂C₆H₅; 5-, 6-, or 7- membered heterocycle (substituted or unsubstituted); -N(H) R_4 , wherein R_4 is -5-, 6-, or 7- membered heterocycle (substituted or unsubstituted).

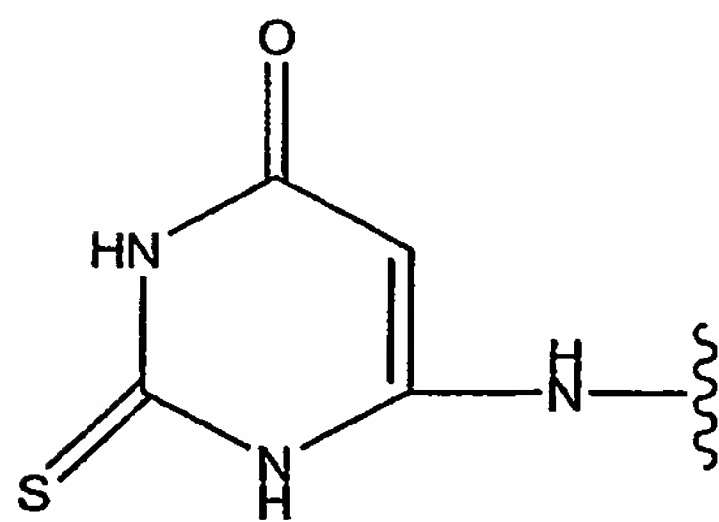
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18. A compound of Formula I:

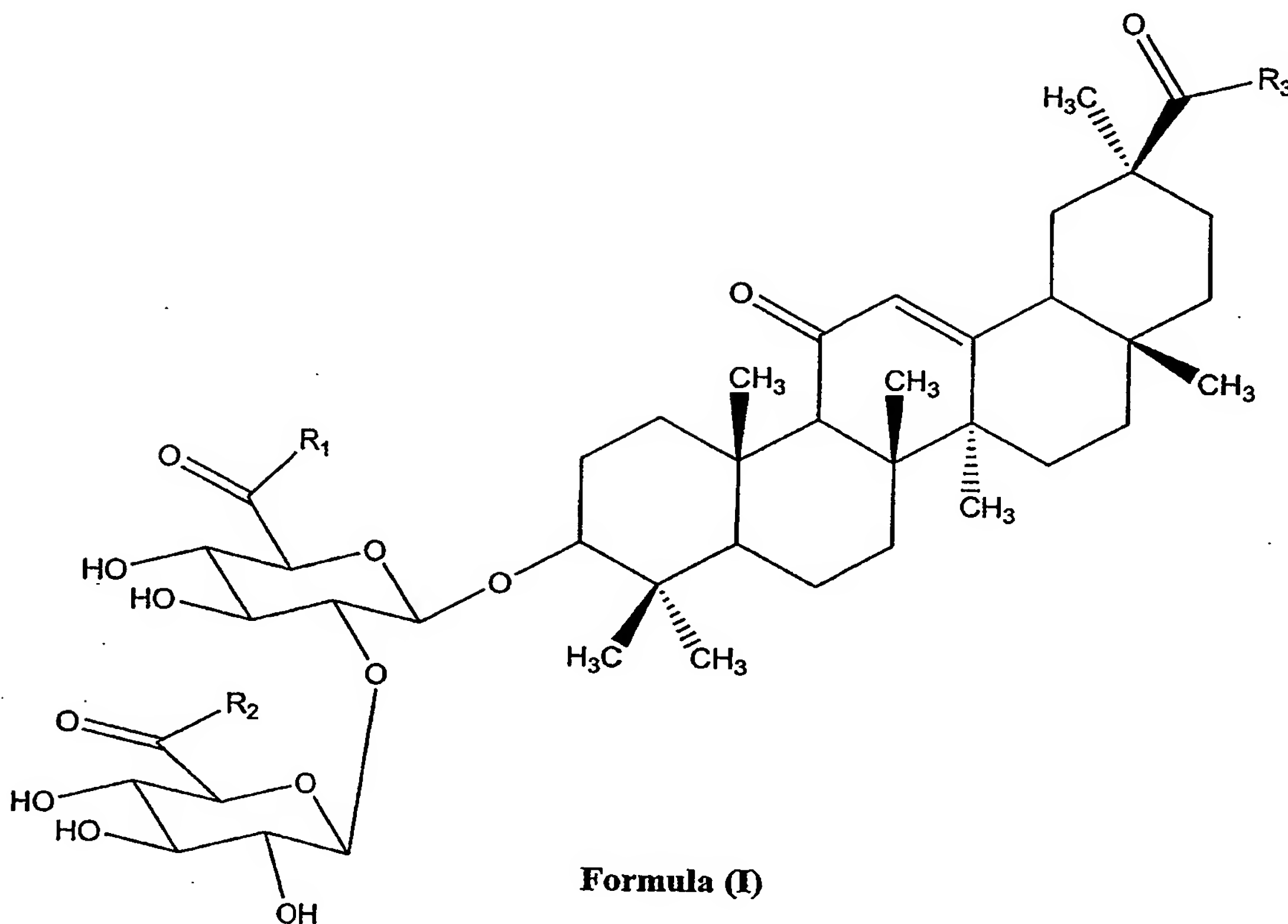


Formula (I)

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, wherein R_1 , R_2 , and R_3 are:



19. A compound of Formula I:



or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, wherein R₁, R₂, and R₃ are independently a 5-, 6-, or 7- membered heterocycle (substituted or unsubstituted), with the proviso that R₁, R₂, and R₃ are not all proline.

20. A method of treating a SARS-associated coronavirus infection or ameliorating one or more symptoms thereof, said method comprising administering to a human infected with SARS-associated coronavirus a therapeutically effective amount of a compound of any one of claims 15-19.